

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01
SAJ-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05
/090 W

-----140850Z 031372 /17

R 121028Z FEB 77
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1946
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS 0233
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY ANKARA BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK BY POUCH

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0035

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD FEB 7-13

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE FIRST INFORMAL SESSION OF THE
CURRENT ROUND OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS

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TOOK PLACE FEBRUARY 9. IN IT, SOVIET REP TARASOV SAID THE
EAST WAS READY TO BEGIN DISCUSSION OF DATA IN THE NEXT
INFORMAL SESSION AND THAT THE EAST HAD PREPARED
PRECISELY FORMULATED ANSWERS TO THE DATA QUESTIONS THE WEST
HAD POSED IN THE DECEMBER 15 INFORMAL SESSION. TARASOV
PRESENTED A LIST OF EASTERN QUESTIONS ON DATA WITH THE
EXPRESSED PURPOSE OF ALLOWING WESTERN REPS TIME TO

PREPARE THEIR REPLIES FOR THE NEXT INFORMAL. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE FEBRUARY 9 INFORMAL SESSION, THE FIRST OF THE ELEVENTH ROUND OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS, SOVIET REP TARASOV SAID THE EAST WAS READY TO BEGIN DISCUSSION OF DATA IN THE NEXT INFORMAL. AT THE SAME TIME, HE REITERATED THE EASTERN VIEW THAT THE WORKING OUT OF REDUCTION CONCEPTS WAS THE MAIN TASK OF THE TALKS AND SHOULD NOT BE SUBORDINATED TO A DATA DISCUSSION. AS REGARDS THE MODALITIES OF THE LATTER DISCUSSION, SOVIET REP SUGGESTED THERE SHOULD BE JOINT EXPLORATION OF EACH INDIVIDUAL QUESTION OR ISSUE AS IT APPLIED TO BOTH NATO AND WARSAW PACT FORCES TO PRECLUDE AN UNBALANCED FOCUS OF ATTENTION ON THE DATA OF ONE SIDE ALONE. TARASOV STATED THAT THE EAST HAD PREPARED PRECISELY FORMULATED ANSWERS TO THE DATA QUESTIONS POSED BY THE WEST AT THE DECEMBER 15 INFORMAL SESSION. IN TURN, EASTERN REPS HAD A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS CONCERNING WESTERN DATA WHICH, TARASOV SAID THEY WISHED TO PRESENT TO WESTERN REPS TO ENABLE THEM TO PREPARE THEIR REPLIES FOR THE NEXT INFORMAL. AT THE END OF THE SESSION SOVIET REP STRONGLY COMPLAINED ABOUT REPEATED PUBLICATION IN THE WESTERN PRESS OF DATA THE EAST HAS TABLED AND NOTED THAT, GIVEN THE CONTINUED VIOLATION OF THE RULE OF CONFIDENTIALITY BY WESTERN PARTICIPANTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, EASTERN PARTICIPANTS CONSIDERED THEY HAD THE RIGHT TO PUBLISH THE SAME DATA MATERIAL IF THEY DEEMED IT NECESSARY.

3. DURING THE BALANCE OF THE FEBRUARY 9 INFORMAL,
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EASTERN REPS ADVANCED STANDARD CRITICISMS OF WESTERN PROPOSALS. THEY DREW ATTENTION TO THE POTENTIALLY BENEFICIAL IMPACT ON THE NEGOTIATIONS OF AGREEMENT TO THE NOVEMBER 1976 EASTERN PROPOSAL THAT ALL CSCE SIGNATORIES RENOUNCE THE FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, BUT SOVIET REP INDICATED IN RESPONSE TO A WESTERN QUESTION THAT THE EAST WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY SUGGESTING THAT THIS PROPOSAL BE DISCUSSED IN THE VIENNA TALKS. WESTERN REPS PRESENTED THE CASE FOR THE EQUITY OF WESTERN PROPOSALS, DEMONSTRATED THE INEQUITY OF THE EASTERN APPROACH, AND STRESSED THE NEED TO TAKE GEOGRAPHIC FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT IN EVALUATING THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS.

4. NEW CANADIAN REP COX MADE THE ONLY STATEMENT GIVEN AT THE FEBRUARY 10 PLENARY MEETING. HIS PRESENTATION CITED THE NECESSITY OF INCLUDING ASSOCIATED MEASURES GENERALLY IN ANY AGREEMENT AND URGED, IN PARTICULAR, THAT THE EAST JOIN IN DISCUSSING WITHOUT

FURTHER DELAY STABILIZING MEASURES GOVERNING RESIDUAL
US AND SOVIET FORCES IN THE AREA FOLLOWING REDUCTION
OF THESE FORCES IN THE AREA FOLLOWING REDUCTION
OF THESE FORCES IN A FIRST PHASE. CANADIAN REP NOTED
THAT EASTERN ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE THAT FIRST-
PHASE REDUCTIONS SHOULD BE CONFINED TO US AND SOVIET
FORCES HAD ESTABLISHED A PRACTICAL FRAMEWORK FOR MAKING
THE LATTER TOPIC AN ACTIVE PART OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

RESOR

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NNN

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